



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Rebecca B. Garland, Deputy State Superintendent *RBG*
Office of the Deputy State Superintendent

Tammy L. Howard, Director *TH*
Accountability Services Division

TESTING UPDATES 2016–17

The purpose of this memo is to inform Superintendents and Charter School Directors of any updates to testing policy and procedures for the upcoming school year. Listed below are updates for 2016–17.

Math I, II, and III Assessment Revisions

In fulfillment of State Board of Education (SBE) policy GCS-F-012, a review and revision of math standards was conducted for Math I, Math II, and Math III. In June 2016, the draft of the revised standards, now called NC Math 1, NC Math 2, and NC Math 3, was presented to and approved by the SBE. When curriculum standards are revised, each associated assessment must also be revised to reflect alignment to the new content standards. For the 2016–17 school year, the end-of-course (EOC) test previously administered for Math I will be revised to align with the new content standards and will be administered as scheduled during the regular testing windows. The revisions do not have an impact on the return of student scores or the inclusion of NC Math 1 data in accountability and growth reports for 2016–17.

The NC Math 2 and NC Math 3 assessments will be newly developed and will be administered during the regular testing windows. However, the purpose of the NC Math 2 and NC Math 3 administrations is to develop items to build new test forms for the 2017–18 school year. Scores for NC Math 2 and NC Math 3 will not be returned to schools and therefore will not be available to include as a minimum of 20 percent (20%) of the students' final grades. It is a local decision to additionally administer a teacher-made final exam for NC Math 2 and NC Math 3.

ACT Testing

Effective for the 2016–17 school year, the PreACT will be administered to students at Grade 10. The PreACT assessment is aligned with the ACT assessment that is administered to students at grade 11. The PreACT allows tenth graders early exposure to test-quality questions and predictive score ranges on the familiar 1–36 scale. The PreACT assessment includes four multiple-choice tests: English, math, reading, and science (no writing). The testing window for PreACT will be October 3–31, 2016. ACT Aspire and ACT Plan are no longer included in the North Carolina Testing Program for 2016–17. Note: For purposes of Individualized Educational Program (IEP) documentation, the alternate assessment for students with disabilities for the PreACT is the College-and-Career Readiness Alternate Assessment at Grade 10. The eligibility criteria for this alternate can be found at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/policies/tswd/>.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Additional Online Assessments

The End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments for Grade 6 English Language Arts (ELA)/Reading and Mathematics will be available online through NCTest for the 2016–17 school year. The EOG ELA/Reading and Math assessments at Grades 7 and 8, Science EOG assessments at Grades 5 and 8, the Biology, English II, and NC Math 1 EOC assessments, as well as all NC Final Exams, will continue to be offered online through NCTest during the 2016–17 school year. The assessments that will be mandatory online administrations for the 2016–17 school year are the English II EOC and the Grade 8 Science EOG. If local education agencies (LEAs)/charter schools do not have the technology capability to support administering the aforementioned online assessments to students, a letter indicating the reason(s) for the hardship must be submitted to Dr. Tammy Howard, the Director of Accountability Services. Paper-and-pencil versions of all online assessments will be available for order, but the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) encourages districts/schools to continue to move toward online assessments as much as their local technical infrastructure will allow.

North Carolina Virtual Public School

Effective with the 2016–17 school year, all students enrolled in courses through North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) must participate in the North Carolina Final Exams. This includes NCVPS Occupational Course of Study courses that are taught jointly between the Local education agency (LEA) and NCVPS.

Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) and Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs)

In the transition to the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act, AMOs and AMAOs will no longer be reported. The accountability reports will continue to include proficiency and growth.

Graduating Seniors

Graduation exercises are to occur after the state-mandated testing window in order to comply with the state law requiring testing in the last five (semester) or ten (yearlong) days of the school year. This law applies to all students, including seniors, so it is not feasible to have graduation exercises prior to the conclusion of the testing window, nor is it possible to grant permission to test seniors outside of the testing window.

However, there are situations that may arise when early testing is permissible through the process of testing outside the state-mandated testing window. Examples may include a fall semester senior graduating early and enrolling at a post-secondary institution prior to the five- or ten-day testing window or a student whose parent/guardian receives a change of military orders requiring family relocation prior to the five- or ten-day testing window. In these instances the Regional Accountability Coordinator is available for additional information and clarification regarding the process to test outside the state-mandated testing window.

If you have questions regarding these updates, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

RBG/TLH/whw

- c: June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
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